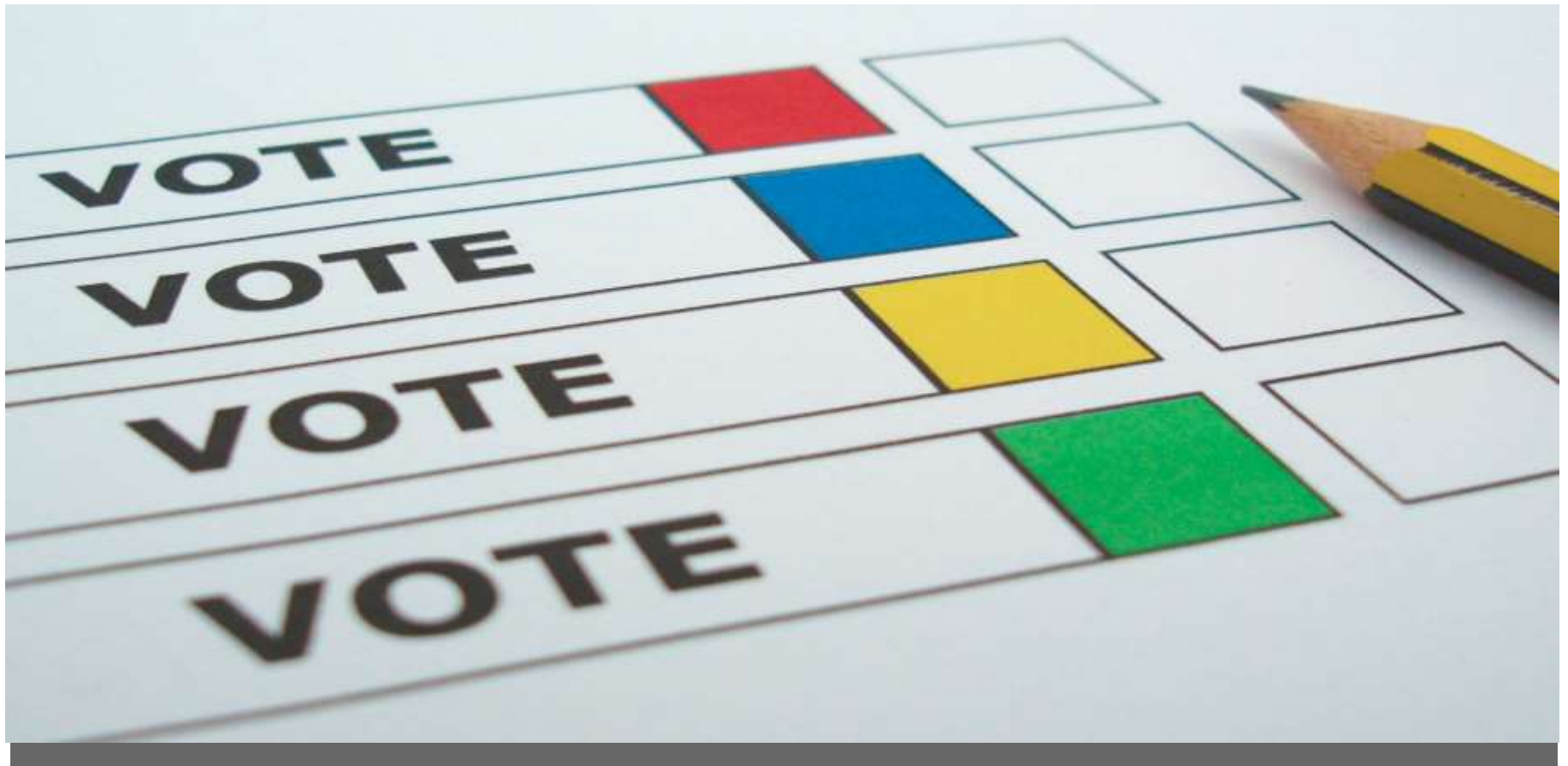




Initiative 101

Jennie Drage Bowser * NCSL Summit 2015 * Seattle



in·i·ti·a·tive

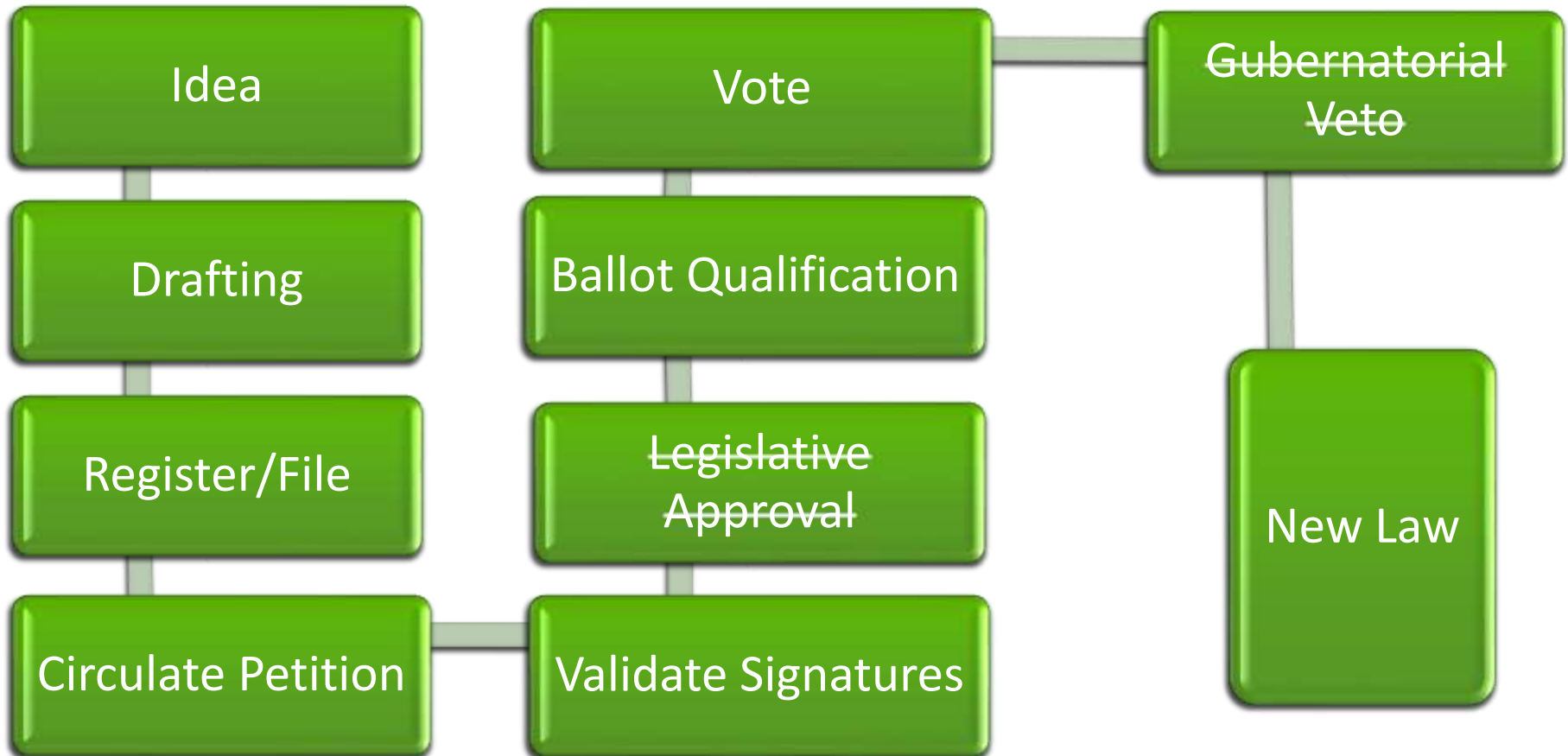
/i'niʃH(ē)ədɪv/

noun

noun: **initiative**; plural noun: **initiatives**; noun: **the initiative**

(especially in some US states and Switzerland) the right of citizens outside the legislature to originate legislation.

Steps in the Process

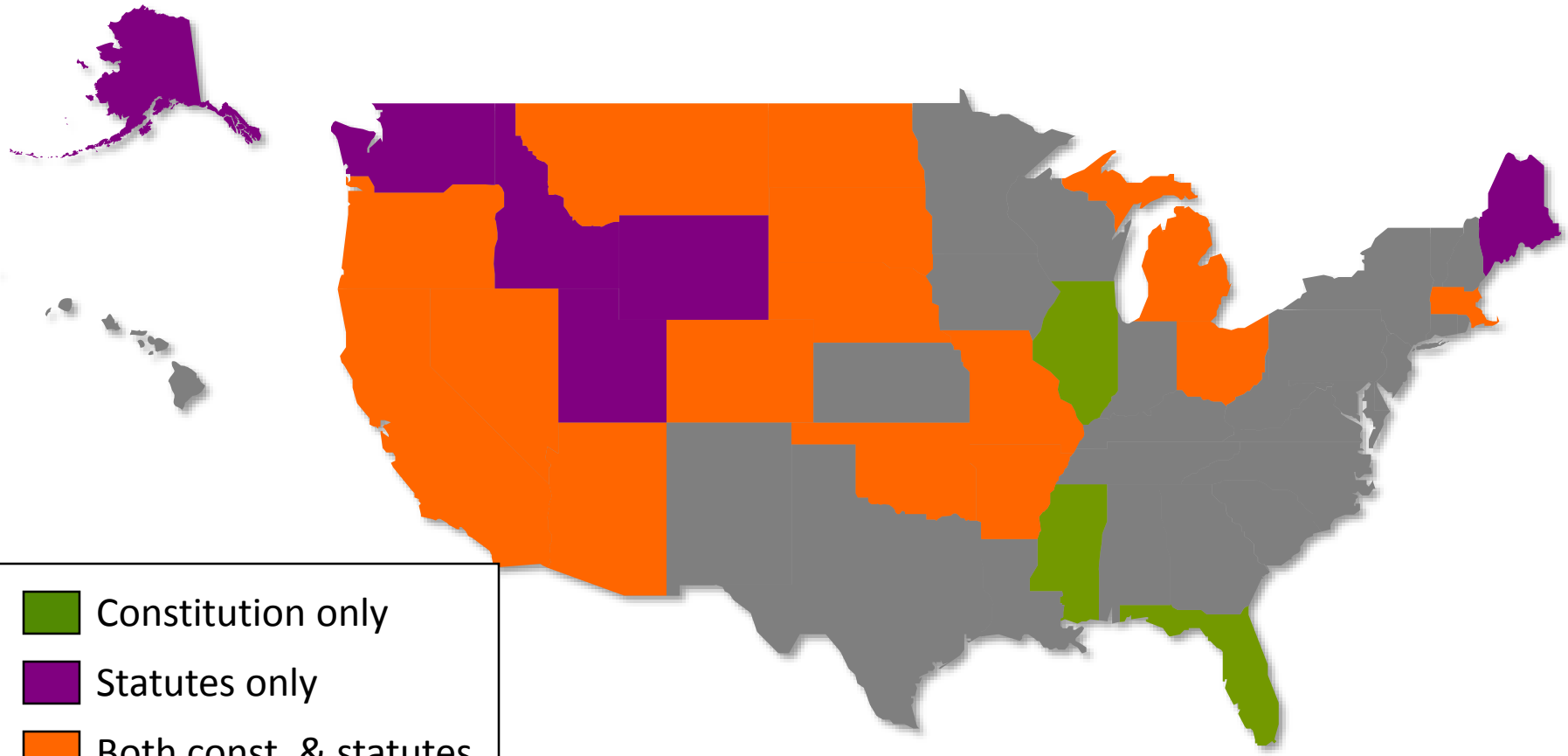


Pop Quiz!

➤ How many U.S. states have the initiative process?

24

The 24 Initiative States



- Constitution only
- Statutes only
- Both const. & statutes
- None

Pop Quiz!

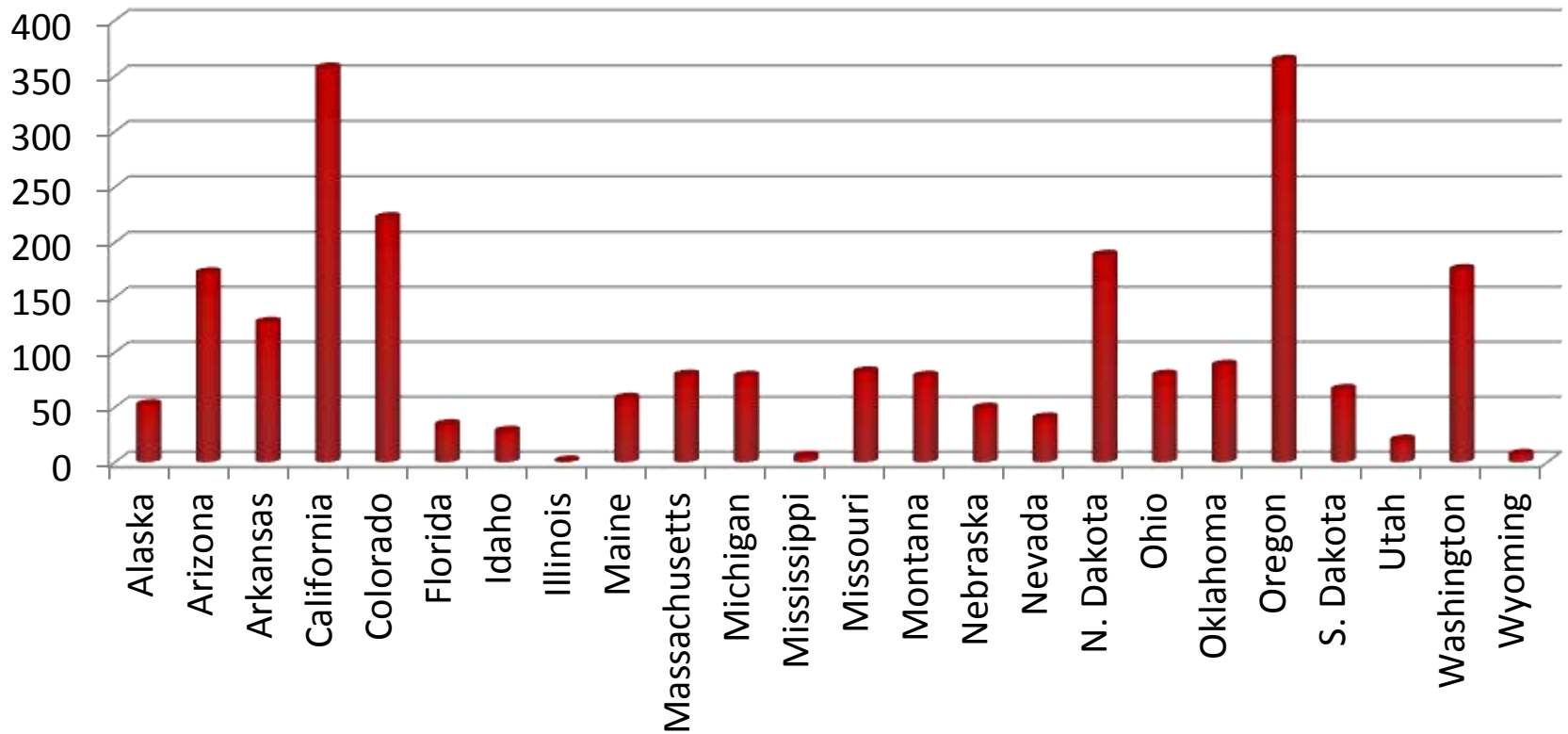
➤ What was the first state to adopt the initiative?

South Dakota

➤ What was the most recent state to adopt it?

Mississippi

Total Initiatives on the Ballot



Pros & Cons of the Initiative

Pros

- Alleviates voter frustration
- More engaged citizenry
- Higher voter turnout
- Check on government that holds elected officials accountable

Cons

- Campaigns can be misleading
- Spending is unlimited & hard to track
- Voter information can be woefully inadequate
- Policymaking in a vacuum

Guess the Policy!

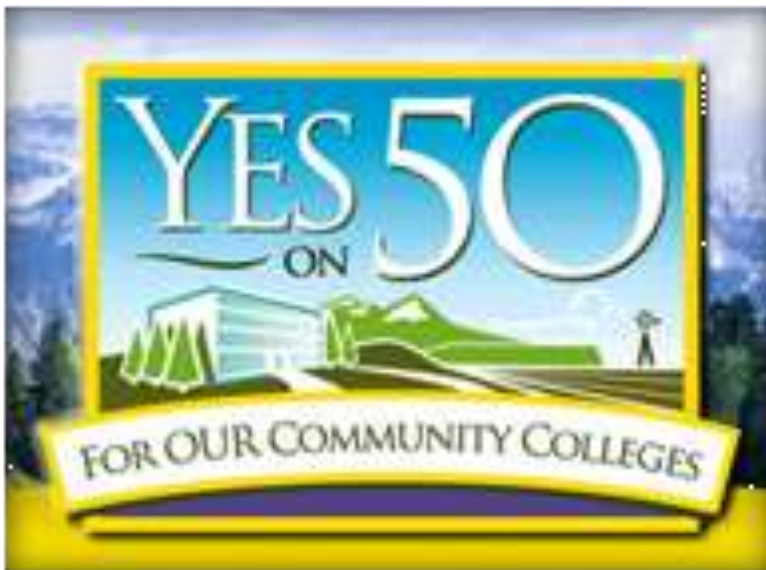


Image: Katy Atkinson & Associates

Amendment 50

- On the ballot in Colorado in 2008
- \$200 million in new revenue in first 5 years
- \$7.7 million spent by proponents
- \$4,446 spent by opponents
- Approved by 59% of voters

ANSWER

Casino Gambling Expansion

Guess the Policy!



Proposition 23

- On the ballot in California in 2010
- Popular name was “California Jobs Initiative”
- \$10.7 million raised by proponents
- \$31.9 raised by opponents
- Failed with 38% of the vote

ANSWER

Suspend Climate Change Regulations

Issues Addressed



Informed... Service Challenge the R... Position and
and Pay the... the... Tax Appeal
the... an Independent...
by... Representative... and...

**TAXPAYER
BILL OF RIGHTS**

Pop Quiz!

- What is the most initiatives we've ever seen on the ballot nationwide in a single election?

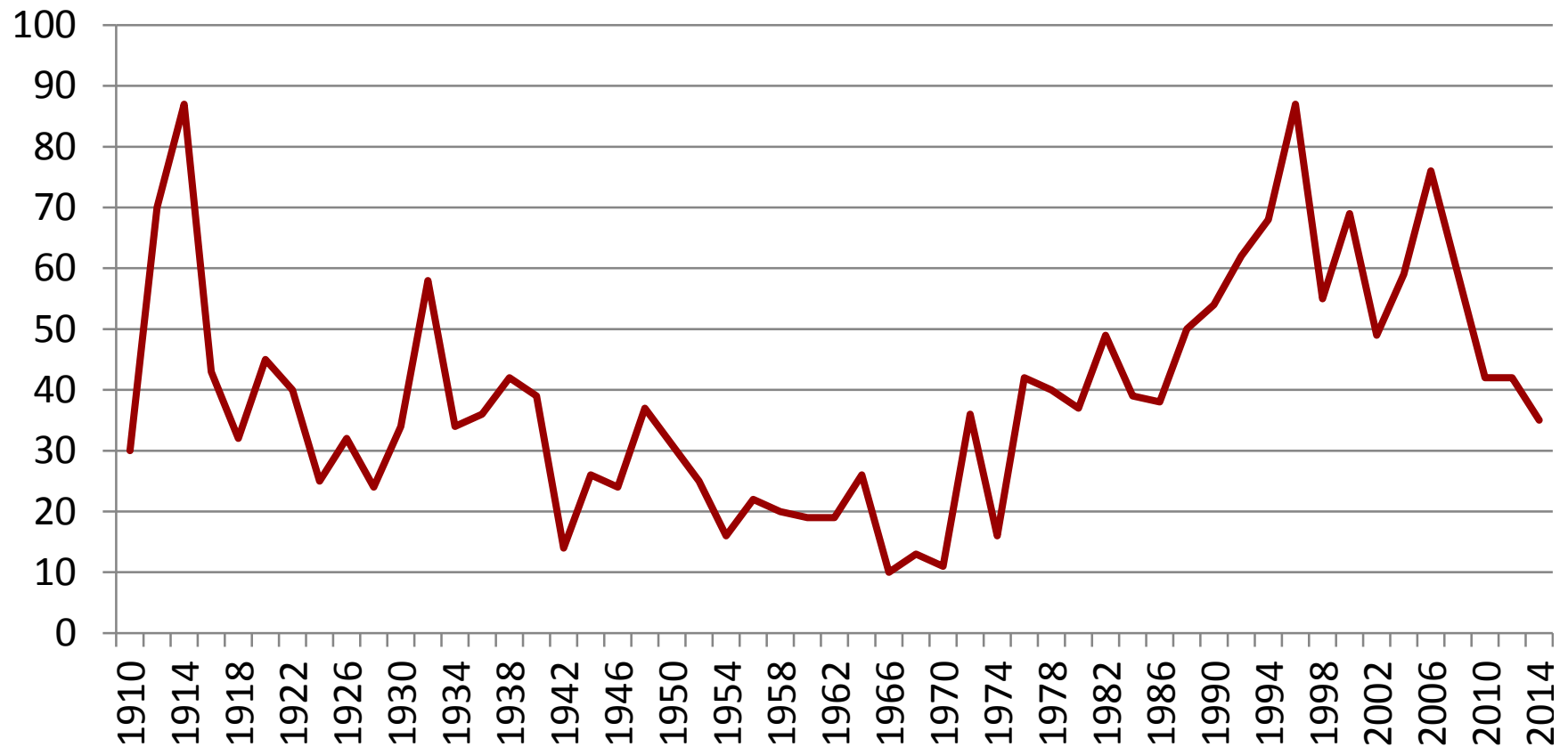
87

- When did that occur?

1914 & 1996

Initiatives on the Ballot

1904 - 2014



Future of the Initiative



Hi-res.JPG file download - Resolution 4000x3000px - www.psdgraphics.com

- #s will bounce back
- New initiative states unlikely
- Gun rights will be big in 2016
- California will pass Oregon in the #s game
- Look to heavy users for innovation in reforming the process

Thanks!

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